

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HONG K 09217 190448Z

21

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 SAM-01 AID-20

EUR-25 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /151 W

----- 111187

R 190250Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1915

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 9217

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: FEI I-MIN ON LEADERSHIP, NPC, TAIWAN

REF: HONG KONG 9155

SUMMARY. HONG KONG COMMUNIST EDITOR FEI I-MIN HAS STRESSED WANG HUNG-WEN AS MAO'S SUCCESSOR, HINTED THAT CHIANG CHING SHOULD NOT BE OVERRATED (REFTEL), AND SAID PROBLEM WITH PEOPLE'S CONGRESS WAS PRO-LIN PIAO DELEGATES. OF TAIWAN, FEI SAID PEKING DISLIKES RECENT BACKWARD STEPS, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW PEKING'S ATTITUDE ON THE JACKSON SUGGESTION FOR A LIAISON OFFICE IN TAIPEI. END SUMMARY.

1. BERKELY PROFESSOR ROBERT SCALAPINO PASSED TO CONGENOFFS FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS OF A CONVERSATION HE HAD AUGUST 16 WITH FEI
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HONG K 09217 190448Z

I-MIN, EDITOR OF THE PRC-OWNED HONG KONG NEWSPAPER TA KUNG PAO.

2. LEADERSHIP. SCALAPINO SKETCHED FOR FEI AN IMPRESSION OF SOVIET VIEWS ON CHINA (WITHOUT LABELING THEM AS SUCH) WHICH INCLUDED THE BELIEF THAT MAO IS SEEKING TO PLACE THE SHANGHAI LEADERS AND CHIANG CHING IN POWER WITHIN THE PARTY. FEI RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT CHIANG AND YAO WEN-YUAN ARE VERY IMPORTANT IN EDUCATION AND CLUTURE, FIELDS IN WHICH THEY HAVE MADE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS AND WHERE THEY CONTINUE TO REPRESENT THE REVOLUTIONARY THRUST. SCALAPINO THOUGHT FEI WAS IMPLYING THAT THE PROMINENCE OF CHIANG AND YAO DID NOT EXTEND BROADLY INTO THE POLITICAL FIELD AND THAT THEIR POWER SHOULD NOT BE OVERRATED.

3. SPEAKING OF WANG HUNG-EN, FEI SAID THAT MAO AND CHOU HAD DECIDED TO GIVE HIM A TWO-YEAR PERIOD IN WHICH TO LEARN AND BE GROOMED AS THE TOP SUCCESSOR TO THEM WITHIN THE PARTY HIERARCHY, WANG, WEI SAID, ATTENDED MAO'S MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN LEADERS AS AN OBSERVER; WANG SAID LITTLE ON THESE OCCASIONS BUT WAS LISTENING AND LEARNING. FEI WAS EMPHATIC THAT WANG WAS NEXT AFTER MAO AND CHOU IN THE PARTY AND WOULD BE NUMBER ONE IN THE SUCCESSION. FEI WAS CERTAIN THAT WANG WAS ON THE MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION.

4. FEI SAID LITTLE ABOUT CHANG CHUN-CHIAO, BUT FLATLY DENIED THAT HE AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PARTY, NO SUCH POST EXISTED.

5. IF CHOU, WHO IS OLD AND SICK, SHOULD RETIRE, FEI SAID PERPHAPS NO ONE PERSON WOULD REPLACE HIM. TENG HSIAO-PING AND LI HSIEN-NIEN MIGHT SPLIT THE DUTIES OF PREMIER. FEI SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER TENG WAS ON THE MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION.

6. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE MILITARY FIGURES IN THE REGIME, FEI FOCUSED ON CHEN HSI-LIEN, PRAISING HIM AS A VERY GOOD MAN AND OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO CHINA.

7. NPC. FEI SAID THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS (NPC) WOULD NOT BE HELD SOON, BUT WOULD BE CONVENED THIS YEAR (SIC). MUCH OF THE PREPARATION HAD ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED, THE THREE BASIC DOCUMENTS-- THE CONTSITUATION, BUDGET, AND FIVE-YEAR PLAN-- WERE DRAFTED, ALTHOUGH THERE MIGHT BE A FEW FURTHER CHANGES BY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HONG K 09217 190448Z

AMENDMENT. THE PROBLEM AFFECTING THE HOLDING OF THE NPC WAS WITH THE DELEGATES; THERE WERE TOO MANY LIN PIAO SUPPORTERS ON THE LIST.

8. TAIWAN. SCALAPINO OFFERED HIS OPIONION THAT SINO-U.S. RELATIONS HAD TURNED DOWN AND HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO INTERNAL PRC DEVELOPMENTS, TAIWAN, AND THE RUDUCED IMMEDIACY OF THE SOVIET THREAT TO THE PRC. FEI SINGLED OUT TAIWAN IN RESPONDING. THERE WAS IMPATIENCE ON THIS SCORE; THE CHINESE PEOPLE WERE VERY

IMPATIENT ABOUT TAIWAN. SCALAPINO RECALLED CHOU'S SAYING THAT THE RESOLUTION OF THE TAIWAN ISSUE MIGHT TAKE 20 YEARS. FEI REPLIED THAT THE CHINESE LEADERS EXPECT PROGRESS ON TAIWAN, ALTHOUGH FORWARD STEPS MAY BE SLOW; BUT THEY DID NOT LIKE BACKWARD STEPS, AND THERE HAD BEEN SOME RECENTLY.

9. ASKED WHAT HE THOUGHT ABOUT SENATOR JACKSON'S IDEA ON SWITCHING AROUND THE TAIPEI EMBASSY AND THE PEKING LIAISON OFFICE, FEI SAID HE COULD NOT RESPOND BECAUSE HE HAD NOT HAD "TIME TO CONSULT" (PRESUMABLY MEANING, SCALAPINO THOUGH, THAT FEI DID NOT KNOW PEKING'S LINE). FEI WENT ON TO SAY THAT PEKING WAS WILLING TO TALK WITH TAIPEI, PERHAPS ECONOMIC MATTERS FOR A START, BUT THAT TAIPEI WAS STUBBORN. FEI REMARKED THAT TAIPEI'S PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO MIGHT TAKE "THE FINAL MISTAKE". PRESSED AS TO WHAT THIS WAS, FEI SAID "TURN TO THE SOVIETS".

10. COMMENT. FEI'S REMARKS, OTHER ACCOUNTS WE RECEIVE, VARY. THE POINTS THAT EMERGE HERE SEEM TO BE THAT WANG IS VERY MUCH ON AS THE SUCCESSOR WITHIN THE PARTY, THAT CHIANG AND YAO HAVE LIMITED ROLES, AND THAT NO ONE IS NOW EMERGING ON THE STATE SIDE WITH THE AUTHORITY CHOU HAS WEILDED (REFTEL). WE ARE INCLINED AT THIS TIME TO TAKE AT FACE VALUE FEI'S PLEA THAT HE IS UNINSTRUCTED ABOUT HOW TO REPLY TO QUESTIONS ON PEKING'S REACTION TO SENATOR JACKSON'S VIEWS ON THE TAIWAN ISSUE. SUCH QUESTIONS AT THIS TIME PROBABLY LAND HIM BEYOND THE INSTRUCTIONS HE HAS RECEIVED TO PUBLISH THE JACKSON VIEWS IN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE EDITION OF HIS NEWSPAPER. THERE MAY BE A CLUE TO THIS IN FEI'S FAILURE THUS FAR TO PUBLISH JACKSON'S VIES IN TA KUNG PAO'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDITION.
CROSS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, SOCIAL CHANGE, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974HONGK09217
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740227-0547
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740837/aaaabfrn.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: HONG KONG 9155
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FEI I-MIN ON LEADERSHIP, NPC, TAIWAN
TAGS: PINT, CH, (CHIANG CHING), (FEI I-MIN), (WANG HUNG-WEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005